

HEALTH
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Borough of Dartford

ANNUAL REPORT

ON CERTAIN MATTERS

CONCERNING

PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

Annual Report on Certain Matters Concerning Public Health for the Year 1954

DECEMBER 1955.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to summarise and comment on the information which comes my way in my annual attempt to review a year's health of the people of Dartford.

POPULATION. Since the census year our population figure appears to reflect the limited capacity of the Town to expand and this is illustrated in the following table:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population	37,030	38,020	39,930	40,580	40,440	40,050	40,020	40,430	40,410
Increase or decrease from previous year	+2,750	+990	+1,910	+650	-180	-530	-30	+410	-20
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)	360	424	376	287	204	190	112	136	86
Immigration or Emigration	+ 2,390	+566	+1,534	+363	-384	-720	-142	+274	-106
Houses built in Borough by Council and Private Enterprise	145	275	357	81	161	143	293	338	247
Houses built outside Borough by Council	-	-	-	-	69	31	-	-	35

BIRTHS. Births were down by twelve on the previous year and the adjusted birth rate was thereby decreased from 14.0 to 13.7. The trend since 1947 has been as follows:-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Births	816	722	656	594	562	533	591	579
Birth rate, Dartford	21.5	18.1	16.2	14.0	13.4	12.8	14.0	13.7
Birth rate, England and Wales	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2

The decrease in the number is small enough to be explained by the influence of chance. If we take into account the fact that by the end of 1954 the Borough's Temple Hill housing estate had overflowed into Dartford Rural District to the extent of 135 houses and that Dartford Borough have rehoused young virile families from their own population in these houses we can conclude that in 1954 a score or so of births were attributed to Dartford Rural District which were, in reality, to the credit of Dartford Borough. Our improved birth rate of 1953 seems therefore to have been maintained.

1951-1953
Births by Social Class/ In my previous reports I have classified our births according to the social classes of the fathers of the infants born. The reason for this is that there has been in recent times some apprehension felt on account of the fact that "the more intelligent have smaller families than the less intelligent, and that, since a large part of intelligence is inherited, there is in process with each generation a progressive lowering of the average level of innate intelligence of the nation." To put it bluntly the age of marriage for the unskilled manual worker has tended to approach school leaving age while that for those who have trained for professions has approached the late thirties.

In the following table the percentage of births attributable to the Registrar General's five social classes is compared with the percentage of those social classes in the Borough's population. An individual need not be born but when born must sometime die and I have, therefore, given the social classification of the deaths as added evidence regarding the social structure of the Borough population:-

DARTFORD BOROUGH

Class	Births 1951/53	Percentage	Males aged 15+ Census 1951 Percentage	Deaths 1951/53	Percentage
I Professional occupations	41	2.6	2.7	45	3.4
II Intermediate occupations	202	13.0	13.2	203	15.4
III Skilled occupations	888	56.5	56.0	626	47.7
IV Partly skilled occupations	322	20.6	12.5	253	19.2
V Unskilled occupations	115	7.3	15.6	189	14.3
	<u>1,568</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,316</u>	<u>100.0</u>

I will summarise the above table for those who can't add as follows:-

	% Births 1951 - 1953	% adult males in population 1951
Class I	3	3
Class II	13	13
Class III	56	56
Classes IV & V	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100

I will translate the latter for those who dislike figures by saying "acknowledgements to the teachers, solicitors, company directors, shop owners, bank managers, engineers, architects, male nurses and brokers of Dartford for reproducing their kind in sufficient numbers for their replacement in the Borough population." To use words from the report of the Royal Commission on Population:-

"There is some evidence that not only during the war but during the last two decades, a change of attitude to size of family has been taking place. The extremely small family is no longer as "fashionable" as it was in the early 1920's. Much has been written in recent years of the disadvantages of the one-child family both for child and parent, and this discussion may both record and encourage a fall in the popularity of families of this kind. The motives at work may include something more fundamental than adherence to a new fashion; a change in convention may be taking place under the stress of experience. Among the generations of people who became parents before, say, 1925, the great majority had been, as children, members of large families and knew their disadvantages. They were anxious to avert those disadvantages from themselves and their children. In recent years, for the first time, the married couples who were engaged in building up their families included a large proportion of people who knew from personal experience that very small families also have their disadvantages. In this sense, it is possible, and even probable, that there has been a reaction against the very small family."

While we are on this risky topic of how many of each social class should be born I should like to mention a statistical task kindly done for me by the Council's housing superintendent and his staff. In post-war years the Council have had in their possession a powerful machine for planning the fertility of the Borough, namely their monopoly for the building and letting of houses. As a distant spectator - a mere layman - on this question of house letting I have sometimes imagined that, apart from incurring the risk of advanced tuberculosis, the way to get rehoused during the post-war shortage is to put one's name down on leaving school, get married at twenty, live with relatives, start a family then increase its size until things become so impossible at home that rehousing by the Council is inevitable. If this supposition were true the housing position would adversely influence the process of evolution by encouraging the excessive reproduction of a thoughtless section of the population.

The social classification of births given above showed that all social classes have been reproducing at the same birth rate and being reluctant to accept that the housing committee could manage the situation so meticulously well I asked for the classification of 1,000 applicants rehoused by the Council. The housing superintendent and his staff kindly provided me with statistics of which the following table is a summary:-

DARTFORD BOROUGH

ONE THOUSAND* REHOUSED APPLICANTS AGED 40 YEARS AND UNDER

	Class I & II	Class III	Class IV & V	Total
Number rehoused	71	661	268	1,000
(Census 1951 occupied and retired males over 15 years of age)	(159)	(560)	(281)	(1,000)
Number of children at time of rehousing	91	953	418	1,462
Number of children at time of rehousing per 100 applicants	128	144	159	146
Percentage of applicants 20-25 years of age	7%	11%	15%	12%

There are numerous factors determining the need for rehousing and interpretation of the figures above is largely conjecture. Nevertheless it is apparent from the above table that though all sections of the population are receiving benefit from the Council's

* Selected for classification by streets

housing activities classes IV and V are rehoused at a younger age and with more children than classes I and II.

Births by Social Class 1954. The General Register Office are now classifying our births for us but the change over has caused some delay. The classification for 1954 has only arrived in time to slip this in prior to printing. Of 579 births 523 were registered with local registrars and these were classified as follows:-

Social Class	Legitimate births by social class of father	Illegitimate births by social class of mother	Total	Percentage
I	35	—	35	7%
II	73	2	75	14%
III	258	11	269	52%
IV	61	3	64	12%
V	74	2	76	15%
	<hr/> 501	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 519	<hr/> 100%
Not stated	1	3	4	
	<hr/> 502	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 523	

Place of birth. Four hundred and forty-eight of the above 523 births took place in hospital, i. e. 82%.

DEATHS. Prior to 1953 the only deaths in Bexley Hospital allotted to Dartford were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In 1952 there were 17 so allotted. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients there were attributed to Dartford, the allocations increasing from 17 in 1952 to 128 in 1953 and 141 in 1954. This large increase, which is not allowed for in the comparability factor, will have to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the town population. The latter will be taken as the total deaths less those of the mental hospitals plus 17.-

	Quarters				Year
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Deaths — Dartford Borough 1954	150	116	96	130	492
Less Mental Hospital deaths	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 141
Town deaths	95	83	68	105	351
Add	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 17
Dartford deaths by pre-1953 methods	100	87	72	109	368

Hence the annual and quarterly deaths and death rates as calculated by the pre-1953

method are:-

Annual Deaths:-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Deaths	369	390	372	421	455	368
Death rate -- Dartford town	9.1	9.9	8.5	10.7	11.3	8.9
Death rate -- England & Wales	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3

Quarterly Deaths:-

Dartford town	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Year
1950	122	81	89	98	390
1951	134	80	64	94	372
1952	115	88	88	130	421
1953	173	92	86	104	455
1954	100	87	72	109	368

Quarterly Death Rates:-

Dartford town

1950	12.3	8.2	9.0	9.0	9.9
1951	13.6	8.2	6.5	9.6	9.5
1952	11.7	9.0	9.0	13.2	10.7
1953	17.1	9.1	8.5	10.3	11.3
1954	9.7	8.4	6.9	10.6	8.9

England and Wales

1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.3
1953	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4
1954	14.0	10.6	9.3	11.4	11.3

Town Deaths by Social Class:-

	Males	Females	Total	% 1954	% 1953	% 1952	% 1951
Class I	3	3	6	2	2	2	5
Class II	23	26	49	14	16	18	13
Class III	95	81	176	50	50	44	46
Class IV	31	25	56	16	13	13	15
Class V	36	23	59	17	17	21	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	188	158	346	99	98	98	97
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	4	5	1	2	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	189	162	351	100	100	100	100

Excluding Bexley Mental Hospital the deaths in hospital and at home were:-

	All ages		75 and over	
	Hospital	Home	Hospital	Home
1951	174	199	51	87
1952	220	201	72	92
1953	227	211	80	123
1954	210	141*	88	59

* Including 3 elsewhere

In 1953 a visit by Virus A influenza increased the deaths of the town in the first quarter of the year by 50%. In 1954 our deaths resumed their non epidemic level, the town deaths for the year dropping from 455 in 1953 to 368 in 1954. The number of deaths of the 75+ age group dropped from 203 in 1953 to 147 in 1954.

For all ages town deaths from respiratory disease in 1953 were 83, in 1954 they dropped to 30. On the other hand, in Bexley Mental Hospital which accommodates 2,250 inmates in a warm, sheltered environment deaths from respiratory disease showed little difference, there being 29 and 28 in 1953 and 1954 respectively.

Causes of Death. The causes of death in the town may be summarised:-

	1953	1954
All causes of death	438 (100%)	351 (100%)
Main causes of death	359 (82%)	283 (81%)
Other causes of death	79 (18%)	68 (19%)
Main causes of death (440-468 diseases of circulatory system	154 (35%)	135 (38%)
(140-205 cancer including Hodgkins		
(disease, Leukaemia and aleukaemia	57 (13%)	74 (21%)
(330-334 Vascular lesions affecting central		
(nervous system	65 (15%)	44 (13%)
(470-527 Diseases of respiratory system	83 (19%)	30 (9%)

For the year 1954 the percentages of the main causes of death are similar to those of England and Wales.

Cancer of the Lung This caused 10 town deaths in 1954, there were 10 in 1953. The rate was 0.25 per thousand population, compared with 0.37 for England and Wales and 0.54 for London.

Coronary disease. This caused 54 town deaths in 1954 compared with 64 in 1953. The rate was 1.34 compared with 1.51 for England and Wales and 1.50 for London.

Disease of the Respiratory System. Bronchitis, pneumonia, etc. in the first quarter are worth watching.

	Deaths in first quarter Respiratory diseases	All causes
1950	14	122
1951*	30	134
1952	21	115
1953*	64	173
1954	13	100

* influenza prevalent

Deaths relating to welfare of mothers and infants. For the first time since 1949, when 4 such deaths occurred, a death occurred in 1954 due to "pregnancy or childbirth" - in this case, due to puerperal toxæmia. Stillbirths numbered 15, the same as in 1953. Thirteen of these were registered in Dartford and of these 3 occurred at home and 10 in hospital. The stillbirth rate was 25 compared with 23.4 for England and Wales and 19.8 for London.

Deaths under four weeks of age numbered 7 compared with 10 in 1953 and all these 7 occurred within 3 days of birth. Deaths between the ages of four weeks and one year numbered 3, of which 2 were due to infectious conditions. One of these was a sudden death from pneumonia.

Deaths of those aged 75 years and over. Between the wars when infant welfare had not asserted its present influence five times as many infants used to die in their first year of life from infectious disease than die today from that cause. Infant mortality in those days was regarded as a "sensitive index" of the quality of the health of the district into which the infant had been born and when the infant mortality rate had

been stated the annual report was already half written.

Modern conditions have made the first year of life immeasurably safer from infectious disease. This is good for our infants and, although we are not sure, we hope it is good for the race.

But it is not so good for the office-desk-health-worker. He is now denied that easy index so useful to his predecessors and cannot hope for guidance from infant pneumonia when only one or two such deaths occur each year.

This state of affairs has forced me to look round for some other index to take the eminent place vacated by the infant mortality rate. I may have found something worth observing in the lungs of those aged 75 years and over. These aged people who have survived the risks of middle age seem sensitive to lung infection which can kill not only by its direct effect but also by throwing a strain on other ageing organs. I intend, therefore, to pay attention to what I shall call "aged respiratory mortality" which will be the percentage of deaths due to respiratory disease in those aged 75 and over:-

Town Deaths aged 75 years and over

	Quarters				1954	1953
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th		
All causes	44	33	29	41	147 (100%)	203 (100%)
Main causes	41	31	26	32	130 (88%)	185 (92%)
Other causes	3	2	3	9	17 (12%)	17 (8%)
(440-468) Diseases of circulatory system	22	17	14	15	68 (46%)	83 (41%)
(140-205) Cancer	3	6	4	5	18 (12%)	16 (8%)
(330-334) Vascular lesions of C.N.S.	10	4	7	6	27 (18%)	34 (17%)
(470-527) Diseases of respiratory system	6	4	1	6	17 (12%)	52 (26%)

Town

Aged respiratory mortality 1953 (influenza year) = 26%

Aged respiratory mortality 1954 (normal year) = 12%

Bexley Mental Hospital

Aged respiratory mortality 1953 (influenza year) = 26%

Aged respiratory mortality 1954 (normal year) = 16%

DISCREPANCIES. The classification we have given to the causes of death is not meticulously the same as that given by the Registrar General and the number of deaths in the Registrar General's list is out by one. However we do not profess to be without an error of 0.3% in any of our figures.

MEASLES. Our two yearly cycle made a late start with the result that 1954 was the first year almost without measles since measles notification was begun in 1940:-

	November	December	January	February	March	April
1949-50	-	-	-	-	-	1
1950-51	138	288	161	58	44	20
1951-52	-	-	-	-	-	-
1952-53	154	238	255	77	88	17
1953-54	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954-55	-	-	6	43	284	473

TUBERCULOSIS. Fifty-nine new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1954 - there were 68 and 44 in 1952 and 1953 respectively. Of the above 59, 15 were notified from Bexley Mental Hospital. The numbers of cases on the register at the end of each year seems to be increasing but I suspect that this is due to vagueness in the practice of removal therefrom.

Number on register December 31st, 1950	-	462
Number on register December 31st, 1951	-	471
Number on register December 31st, 1952	-	532
Number on register December 31st, 1953	-	553
Number on register December 31st, 1954	-	599

Of the 599 cases on our register we have details of 210 and of these 40% appear to be infectious cases. The following may illustrate a way in which infection is transmitted.

Three Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Three Adjacent Flats

The block of flats in question consists of a bottom pair of ground floor flats (11 and 12), a middle pair of first floor flats (13 and 14) and a top pair of second floor flats (15 and 16). Between the flats of each pair is the common passage and staircase which as it ascends has the entrances of flats opposite each other on the landing. Refuse and dust from each flat is collected by each individual occupier and taken down the stairs in a bucket which is then emptied into a common bin in the yard. The stairs are kept clean by any occupier who cares to brush down the steps and no doubt the process consists of brushing down from the top with an accompanying suffusion of the air with dust.

In 1944 Mrs. A, a case of pulmonary tuberculosis moved into No. 15 flat. In 1951, being infectious, she was given the tenancy of one of the Council's houses designed for cases of tuberculosis and some years later she died of the disease.

In 1953 Mr. B, was notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. He lived at flat No. 14.

In January 1954 Mr. C, who lived at No. 13 flat was picked up by Mass X-ray. In 1955 he died.

The numbers of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis were as follows:-

	1953	1954
Town	6	6
Bexley Mental Hospital	6	5

In addition to the 1954 deaths, 4 deaths were classified to causes other than tuberculosis but mentioned tuberculosis as a contributory cause. There were 3 other removals from the register by death which did not mention tuberculosis on the death certificate.

During 1954 the following suggestions were made regarding priority for housing applicants who gave tuberculosis as a reason:

Points	0	1 to 4	5 to 8
No. of recommendations	14	11	6

The following applicants awarded priority for tuberculosis in any year were rehoused by the Council in 1954:

Points	1 to 4	5 to 8
No. rehoused	4	4

When a tuberculous person moves house we now try to get the vacated house disinfected before the incoming family go in. However when the move does not involve a Council house we do not always get to know of the move in time. The number of houses disinfected in this way in 1954 was 33.

POLIOMYELITIS. For the first time an adult contact was requested to refrain from attending work for the last fortnight of the three weeks interval from time of contact. The contact had nursed a paralytic case and her work was at a telephone exchange in

close contact with colleagues. Her employer gave full pay during this period of absence.

WHOOPING COUGH. The cases notified were as follows:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954
All ages	187	37	115	89
Under 3 years	58	1	39	28

In november there was an unusual incidence of coughing, sometimes with vomiting, in school children and I believe some general practitioners were thinking of "winter vomiting".

SONNE DYSENTERY. The 9 cases of dysentery notified do not give a complete picture. In the first quarter of 1954 we were informed of numerous families suffering from diarrhoea and stool specimens from each member of these families (about 40 persons) were submitted by us to the laboratory. Several were positive for sonne dysentery. The families were kept under observation until stool specimens gave negative results on culture.

FOOD INFECTION. A beef tapeworm and 8 infections with salmonella typhi-murium were the total of positive findings for 1954.

OTHER INFECTIONS. Two members of a family were found to be suffering from psittacosis. Paratyphoid B was found by routine examination in a patient at Bexley Mental Hospital. Meningitis due to haemophilus influenzae caused the death of a 2 month old infant.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME. The Dartford group of Hospitals have kindly agreed to include a sub-group for accidents in the home in their records and this now provides us with details of admissions to hospital of these cases from this Borough. This method of recording was begun on July 1st, 1954 and so we have only the records of the second half of 1954 available:-

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Aged 7 months | Baby given a teaspoonful of floor polish in mistake for cough mixture. Recovered. |
| 2. Aged 1 year | Scalds. Pulled cup of coffee over arm. Recovered. |
| 3. Aged 2 years | Swallowed ferrous sulphate tablets. Recovered. |
| 4. Aged 3 years | Fell in garden. Recovered. |
| 5. Aged 23 years | Swallowed sal-volatile in mistake for liquid paraffin. Recovered. |
| 6. Aged 65 years | Swallowed excess of sleeping tablets. Recovered. |
| 7. Aged 75 years | Fell downstairs. Recovered. |
| 8. Aged 83 years | Fall at home fracturing arm and thigh. Fractures due to thinning of bones due to age. Died. |

1954 deaths classified to "All other accidents" include the following accidents in the home:-

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Aged 18 months | Scalds due to overturned teapot. |
| 2. Aged 70 years | Coal gas poisoning. |
| 3. Aged 77 years | Burns from fall in fireplace. |

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS. The six deaths due to this cause were:-

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Aged 8 years | Ran into private motor car. |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|

2. Aged 23 years (M) On pedal cycle.
3. Aged 29 years (F) Passenger in a motor car in collision with stationary lorry.
4. Aged 39 years (M) Riding pedal cycle in collision with motor car.
5. Aged 41 years (F) Pedestrian struck by motor car.
6. Aged 74 years (M) On pedal cycle in collision with motor van.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. For a well immunised child population it is estimated that 75% of those more than eight months of age should have completed a course of immunisation within the last five years.

The position in England and Wales according to the Chief Medical Officer's report for 1954 is that 37% of children who reached the age of one year during that 12 months were immunised. The percentage of children in England aged 0 to 14 years who had been immunised in the last five years varied in local health authorities from 75% (Urban) to 24% the lowest (Rural).

In Kent the County Medical Officer's reports for 1953 and 1954 do not give us a percentage for children who reached the age of one year during each twelve months who were immunised but we can calculate the percentage of those born in 1953 who were immunised in 1953 or 1954 and this is 65%. On 31st December, 1954 the percentage of children aged 0 - 14 years in Kent who had been immunised in the last 5 years was 51%.

In Dartford Borough our tables show that 58% of children who reached the age of one year during 1954 were immunised and this figure compares favourably with the England and Wales figure of 37% given above. Our tables show also that in Dartford the percentage of those born in 1953 who were immunised in 1953 or 1954 was 73% and this compares favourably with the figure of 65% for Kent. It will be seen that 1954 in Dartford Borough 50% of children aged 0 - 14 years had, on 31st December, 1954, been immunised in the last 5 years, a figure akin to the above 51% for Kent. This figure compares unfavourably with the 75% given above for the highest percentage in England and Wales with which we, being an urban area, should be compared.

A drop in the figures for school children immunised in the last 5 years is due to no reimmunisation being done at the secondary schools.

Nineteen fifty-four was the seventh year in succession in which no diphtheria occurred in Dartford Borough.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Infant Vaccination. "In England and Wales in 1954, the percentage of infants under the age of one year who were vaccinated was approximately 34.5. While this is an improvement on previous years, it is far below what may be regarded as satisfactory. Indeed, because routine infant vaccination is thought to be justified as the first step in the establishment of a satisfactory immunity in later years as well as by the immediate protection thereby conferred on the individual, the aim should be to see that every healthy infant is vaccinated".

In Kent in 1954 the percentage of births that year of those vaccinated under 1 year of age was 61%.

In Dartford Borough in 1954 the percentage of births that year of those vaccinated under 1 year of age was 64%.

Re-vaccination of school children. "The re-vaccination of children within two or three years of first entering school not only maintains or revives their individual protection, but is likely to facilitate substantially the control of local outbreaks of smallpox. It also ensures that any further vaccination in later life, performed perhaps on entering the Armed Forces or a particular employment or necessitated by travel abroad, will be less likely to have any serious reactions or complications. For all these reasons the re-vaccination of school children is to be encouraged".

The number of children due each year for re-vaccination in school is roughly the

annual number of infant vaccinations 5 years previously. In England and Wales the percentage of this number of school children re-vaccinated in 1954 was 7%. In Kent the figure in 1954 was 3%. In Dartford Borough in 1954 the figure was 7%.

DISCUSSION OF IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION RATES IN DARTFORD BOROUGH Two procedures have been advocated for the country-wide prevention of dangerous infectious disease, namely vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria.

An Act of 1867 required all children to be vaccinated within three months of birth; an Act of 1898 extended this period to six months after birth but exempted the conscientious objector who satisfied two Justices that he was genuine; an Act of 1907 reduced this formality to a statutory declaration; finally an Act of 1946 coming into operation in 1948 removed all provisions for compulsion.

In 1903 in England and Wales 75% of infants were vaccinated, in 1913 47% and in 1947 40%. The only figure I have for this Dartford area around 1947 is 66%, the increase on the England and Wales figure being that expected in an urban area for which reason I imagine that our acceptance rate in 1903 would be 85%. As this figure 85% allows for the genuine conscientious objector I think it will be the maximum attainable under voluntary vaccination.

When smallpox enters a district the public are siezed with a fear that is in marked contrast with the complacency of normal times when healthy beings occupy their minds with thoughts other than the bogey of possible pestilence. In normal times the man in the street will agree to infant vaccination as a worthwhile measure but he will not always trouble to enter the surgery or clinic to get his son vaccinated. The difference between the 64% infant vaccination rate in Dartford Borough in 1954 and the presumed 85% in 1903 is not, I suggest, the difference between "compulsion" and voluntary acceptance but the difference between a visit of the public vaccinator to the home and with lymph and needle ready for use, as was provided in 1903, and the inconvenience to the parent of visiting the clinic or the surgery as is required in 1954.

When 64% of infants receive vaccination on a voluntary basis as they do in Dartford it is clear that 64% of parents agree with the vaccination routine. Yet only 7% of this group of willing parents have their children re-vaccinated at school age. The reason is that they are not reminded of this need and as no re-vaccination is done at school they have to seek re-vaccination on their own initiative.

These same arguments apply to immunisation of infants against diphtheria and their re-immunisation in school life -- a routine introduced on a national scale in 1940 and which, though an outstanding success, could be bettered.

My suggestion is, therefore, that the acceptance rate for these services in infant and school life could be increased in Dartford Borough to 85% by more "spoon feeding" e.g. vaccination and immunisation if necessary in the home, re-vaccination and re-immunisation in the school -- i.e. catering for the fickle minded.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I wish to thank the chairman and members of the public health committee for their interest, the staff of this department for their willing co-operation and a number of colleagues for providing information for this report.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN H. HUDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX I

Social and Environmental Conditions

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated mid-year home population)	
1954	40,410
Population (Census 1931)	28,928
Population (Census 1951)	40,544
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954, according to Rate Books)	11,940
Rateable value	£353,880
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,425

The 1953 comparability factor for births, governed by the proportion of women aged 18 to 44 years is 0.96. The factor for deaths, governed by the proportion of all age groups, is 0.98. Considering the fact that all deaths occurring at Bexley Mental Hospital are now allotted to Dartford Borough, it seems that our comparability factor, and consequently our adjusted death rate, is too high.

The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with any other local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

No great change has occurred in the social conditions since an attempt was made to describe them in the report for 1950. The following figures may act as indicators for 1954:-

Cases dealt with by N. S. P. C. C.

Neglect	29
Ill treatment	2
Children affected	97
Prosecution for neglect	1

Unemployed on December 31st, 1954 (Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural)	Men	126
	Women	70

Illegitimate birth rate 1954, Dartford Borough 45 per 1000 live births
 Illegitimate birth rate 1954, England and Wales 46 per 1000 live births

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

Water - The dwellings of the Borough are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board from wells in the chalk. In 1954 the monthly reports received from the Metropolitan Water Board showed almost 100% of the numerous samples from Kent District wells to yield first class bacteriological results (no typical Bact coli in 100 m.l.) Four samples taken on consumers premises by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors showed similar results.

In addition to the above there are buildings receiving other supplies and these include:-

- (a) Two hospitals which receive supplies from their own wells. Four quarterly samples taken in 1954 from one of these gave satisfactory results, nine samples from the other, with one exception, gave satisfactory results.
- (b) Three paper mills each supplied by their own wells, one having several wells. Four chemical samples taken in 1954 gave doubtful results and of eight bacteriological samples four gave doubtful results.
- (c) An engineering works supplied by three wells. In 1954 four bacteriological samples were taken and reported on as satisfactory.

- (d) A chemical works with two wells. From these three bacteriological samples were taken in 1954 and gave two satisfactory and one doubtful results.
- (e) A farm supplied by its own well. Two chemical samples taken in 1954 gave doubtful results and two out of three bacteriological samples were doubtful.

Water supplies should be judged with the help of an intimate personal knowledge of their history, nature and environment. It may be noticed that I am attempting to discuss the above supplies from analytical reports alone and this, I confess, is not ideal.

Housing - An account of the action taken to obtain the repair or demolition of existing dwellings will be found in the report of the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The following dwellings have been completed in the last five years:-

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
By Corporation	201	155	250	289	199
By Private Enterprise	29	19	43	49	83
	<u>230</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>282</u>

No. of improvement grants made in 1954 8

The dwellings built by the Corporation in 1953 were as follows:-

Two bedroom houses	..	..	..	78
Three bedroom houses	..	..	..	36
One bedroom flats	..	..	..	24
Two bedroom flats	..	..	..	20
Three bedroom flats	..	..	..	4
Old peoples bungalows	..	..	..	35
				<u>197</u>

Number of applicants on waiting list at the end of December, 1953 - 1,819

Number of applicants on waiting list at the end of December, 1954 - 1,483

Atmospheric Pollution - A separate memorandum has been prepared.

APPENDIX II

Tables

(i) VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	304	249	553
Illegitimate	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>
	318	261	579
Crude Live birth rate per 1,000 home population			14.3
Birth Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor			13.7
Crude birth rate, England and Wales			15.2

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	10	15
Illegitimate	—	—	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births)			25.0
Still birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births			23.4

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Males	Females	Total
Dartford Town	189	162	351
Bexley Mental Hospital	61	80	141
Dartford Borough	250	242	492
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population			
Dartford Town — population 38,140			9.2
Bexley Mental Hospital — population 2,270			62.1
Dartford Borough — population 40,430			12.2
Death rate Dartford Borough adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor			12.0

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	1
Death rate per 1,000 live and still births — Dartford Borough	1.7
Death rate per 1,000 live and still births — England and Wales	0.7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Age	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	5	2	7
4 weeks to 1 year	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	6	4	10

All infants dying under 1 year, with the exception of 1 female under four weeks of age, were legitimate.

Death rate per 1,000 live births, Dartford Borough	17.3
Death rate per 1,000 live births, London South Eastern Region	20.3
Death rate per 1,000 live births, England and Wales	25.5
Death rate per 1,000 live births, Harrow Urban District	16.7

Causes of Death	Total	Age at Death
Atelectasis	4	2 under one day
		1 at one day
		1 at three days
Kidney tumour	1	Under one day
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	Under one day
Prematurity	1	Two days
Congenital Megacolon	1	Four weeks
Meningitis (H. Influenzae)	1	Two months
Pneumonia	1	Four months

(ii) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX

Registrar General's Return

	Male	Female	Persons
All causes	252	241	493
Tuberculosis, respiratory	8	2	10
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	2	3
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	6	11)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	1	14)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	12	12)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	6	6)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	18	45)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2)
 Diabetes	4	3	7
 Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	34	57
 Coronary disease, angina	50	31	81)
Hypertension with heart disease	5	5	10)
Other heart disease	37	48	85)
Other circulatory disease	12	14	26)
 Influenza	0	0	0)
Pneumonia	14	22	36)
Bronchitis	11	5	16)
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4)
 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	16	33
Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
All other accidents	2	4	6
Suicide	4	2	6
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0

90

202

56

(iii) DARTFORD TOWN - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE

Compiled Locally

	Total	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75+
All causes	351	8	2	1	-	2	4	7	15	27	45	93	147
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	40	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	6	13	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	8	27
Coronary disease, angina	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	8	26	13
Hypertension with heart disease	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Other heart disease	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	11	35
Other circulatory disease	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	12
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	13	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	8
Bronchitis	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	29	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	6	3	9
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	6	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Suicide	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**(iv) BEXLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING
TO AGE**

Compiled Locally

	Total	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75+
All causes	141	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	12	25	46	53
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 Diabetes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	3
 Coronary disease, angina	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	11
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other heart disease	35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	9	22
Other circulatory disease	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1
 Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	4	10	8
Bronchitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(v) CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES 75 YEARS AND OVER

(Dartford Town)

	Total persons	MALE					FEMALE				
		75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95+	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95+
All causes	147	26	22	5	2	1	34	26	15	6	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	3	2	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	-
Diabetes	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	27	2	6	-	1	-	10	4	3	-	1
Coronary disease, angina ..	13	3	3	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-
Hypertension with heart disease	8	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other heart disease	35	7	3	2	1	1	7	6	4	2	2
Other circulatory disease ..	12	1	3	1	-	-	2	-	3	2	-
Pneumonia	8	2	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
Bronchitis	7	2	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Congenital malformations ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	-	1	1	1	-	4	1	-	1	-
All other accidents	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

(Bexley Mental Hospital)

	Total persons	MALE					FEMALE				
		75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95+	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95+
All causes	53	7	7	3	1	-	17	12	4	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Coronary disease, angina ..	11	-	1	1	-	-	4	4	1	-	-
Other heart disease	22	4	5	1	-	-	6	3	-	3	-
Other circulatory disease ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	8	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

(vi) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

Dartford Town

MALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	189	3	23	-	6	8	1	79	7	24	5	31	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	-	1	-	-	1	-	5	-	1	1	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	-	1	-	-	1	-	11	2	4	1	4	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	1	3	1	2	-
Coronary disease, angina	37	1	9	-	1	3	1	11	2	4	-	5	-
Hypertension with heart disease ..	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
Other heart disease	20	1	3	-	1	1	-	9	-	2	-	3	-
Other circulatory disease	10	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	1	-
Influenza	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	-
Bronchitis	9	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	1	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	2	1	2	-
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
All other accidents	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-

FEMALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	162	3	26	-	6	4	1	70	5	20	8	15	4
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	10	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	1	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	-	2	-	-	-	-	9	-	4	-	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	-	9	-	-	-	-	9	2	4	3	1	-
Coronary disease, angina	18	-	3	-	-	-	1	7	-	2	1	4	-
Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	30	1	3	-	-	2	-	18	-	3	1	2	-
Other circulatory disease	10	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	2
Pneumonia	8	1	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Bronchitis	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	-	1	-	2	-	-	4	1	1	1	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

(vii) CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

Bexley Mental Hospital

MALES					Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	..	..	..	..	61	1	2	-	3	6	2	25	2	5	1	14	-
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..			5	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus					3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Coronary disease, angina	..	..			10	-	1	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	-	2	-
Other heart disease	..	..			18	-	1	-	1	-	1	7	-	4	1	3	-
Other circulatory disease	..	..			2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	11	1	-	-	-	2	-	6	1	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..			2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

FEMALES					Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	..	..	..	..	80	-	9	-	3	4	2	23	3	11	4	7	14
Syphilitic disease	..	..			2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..			2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..			2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	..	..			13	-	3	-	1	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	3
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other heart disease	..	..			17	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	1	2	3	1	4
Other circulatory disease	..	..			4	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	15	-	1	-	2	-	1	4	1	1	-	1	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	7	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	-
All other accidents	..	..			2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

(viii) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954

Disease	Total	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45+
Scarlet Fever	44	-	6	10	24	2	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	89	10	18	19	41	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	32	5	-	1	3	1	3	4	15
Poliomyelitis -- Paralytic ..	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Non-Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Scabies	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Dysentery	9	-	1	-	2	-	2	2	2
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	7	-	-	1	2	-	1	2	1
Measles	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

In addition to the above the following cases were notified from institutions:-

Para Typhoid	- 1
Puerperal Pyrexia	- 9
Measles	- 1

The following non-notifiable diseases were reported from the schools:-

Chicken Pox	- 67
Rubella	- 12
Impetigo	- 8
Mumps	- 4
Conjunctivitis	- 3
Ringworm	- 2
Influenza	- 1

(b) Distribution of Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia, 1954

MEASLES - No table for Measles is given as only one case of Measles occurred during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

	St. Albans	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	1	-	-	7	2	-	10
February	-	5	1	3	1	-	10
March	-	-	2	1	2	1	6
April	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
May	-	1	1	-	3	2	7
June	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
July	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
August	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
October	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
November	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
December	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FOR YEAR ..	1	8	5	12	12	5	43

WHOOPIING COUGH

				St. Albans	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	..	..	..	-	1	5	-	6	1	13
February	..	..	..	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
March	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
April	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
May	..	..	..	-	-	1	4	-	2	7
June	..	..	..	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
July	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
August	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
September	..	..	..	-	1	2	-	6	-	9
October	..	..	..	-	-	-	2	8	-	10
November	..	..	..	-	1	-	9	3	3	16
December	..	..	..	2	4	-	1	10	4	21
TOTAL FOR YEAR	..			3	7	9	18	36	16	89

PNEUMONIA

				St. Albans	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	..	..	..	-	2	1	1	3	-	7
February	..	..	..	-	1	-	1	1	1	4
March	..	..	..	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
April	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
May	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	4	1	6
June	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
August	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	..	..	..	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
November	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	..	..	..	2	-	-	2	1	2	7
TOTAL FOR YEAR	..			2	3	4	7	11	6	33

(c) Tuberculosis

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:-

				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	..	..	..	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	..	..	..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	..	..	..	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	..	..	..	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	..	..	..	3	5	-	2	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	..	..	..	9	2	-	2	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	..	..	..	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	..	..	..	4	2	-	-	4	-	-	-
55 - 65	..	..	..	8	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
65 and upwards	..	..	..	4	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals				39	20	1	5	8	2	-	-

Twenty-seven of the 44 cases of tuberculosis notified during 1954 and 15 cases notified previous to that year were removed to hospital or sanatorium for treatment.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to two of the deaths occurring during the year but the disease was only revealed by post-mortem examination.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year:-

		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register at end of 1953	..	278	207	30	38	553
Number on register at end of 1954	..	302	225	30	42	599

(ix) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

From figures supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived:-

INOCULATIONS DONE EACH YEAR

	Age at 31st December	Primary Inoculations done in the year	Re-inforcing Inoculations done in the year
1954	0 - 4 years	501	66
	5 - 14 years	38	347
1953	0 - 4 years	397	63
	5 - 14 years	46	346
1952	0 - 4 years	542	82
	5 - 14 years	64	493
1951	0 - 4 years	454	70
	5 - 14 years	106	545
1950	0 - 4 years	523	30
	5 - 14 years	77	230

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH EFFECTIVE IMMUNITY

Immunisation is effective for about five years and then requires to be re-inforced.
Hence:-

December 31st	Age group	Children immunised at any time in their life	Children immunised in the last 5 years	Population Census 1951	Percentage children immune
1954	0 - 4 years	1,882	1,882	3,414*	55%)
	5 - 14 years	3,975	2,517	5,416	46%) 50%
1953	0 - 4 years	1,906	1,906	3,414*	56%)
	5 - 14 years	4,947	3,335	5,416	62%) 59%

* Population of age group 0 - 4 years probably much less now and, therefore, percentages are appreciably more than 55% and 56%.

INFANT IMMUNISATION RATE

Percentage of those born in a given year who were immunised in that year or the next

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year immunised	Number immunised	%	Total	%
1954	579	1954	69	12	?	?
		1955	?	?		
1953	591	1953	53	9	433	73
		1954	380	64		
1952	533	1952	84	16	388	73
		1953	304	57		
1951	562	1951	49	9	424	75
		1952	375	66		
1950	594	1950	66	11	423	71
		1951	357	60		

Immunisation by age at date of immunisation

	Number of live births	Number under 1 year of age immunised	Percentage of births of 1953 of those immunised under 1 year of age in 1954
1954	579	342	58
1953	591	?	?

(x) SMALLPOX VACCINATION

NUMBERS VACCINATED

		Age at December 31st		
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1954				
Vaccinated		224	159	15
Revaccinated		-	1	27
1953				
Vaccinated		229	110	4
Revaccinated		-	3	10
1952				
Vaccinated		250	125	12
Revaccinated		-	3	12
1951				
Vaccinated		255	140	46
Revaccinated		-	3	21
1950				
Vaccinated		231	143	22
Revaccinated		-	2	11

INFANT VACCINATION RATE

Percentage of those born in a given year who were vaccinated in that year or the next

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year vaccinated	Number vaccinated	%	Total	%
1954	579	1954	224	39	?	?
		1955	?	?		
1953	591	1953	229	39	380	64
		1954	151	25		
1952	533	1952	250	47	350	66
		1953	100	19		
1951	562	1951	255	45	370	66
		1952	115	20		

VACCINATION BY AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION

	Number of live births	Number vaccinated by age at date of vaccination			Percentage of births of those vaccinated under one year
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	
1954	579	369	13	5	64%
1953	591	326	15	1	55%
1952	533	359	21	10	67%

The detailed analysis of 1954 vaccinations is as follows:-

Age Group	Vaccinated		Revaccinated	
	Private Doctors	Clinics	Private Doctors	Clinics
Under 1	201	168	-	-
1 - 4	5	8	-	-
5 - 14	2	3	7	1
Total under 15	208	179	7	1

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report which includes a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1954.

ESTABLISHMENT

The establishment of the Department was increased during the year by the addition of one Sanitary Inspector and one pupil Sanitary Inspector, but by the end of the year it had not been possible to fill either vacancy.

The establishment was increased in order to provide staff to cope with increased duties, particularly duties in connection with housing inspections, Improvement Grants and Certificates of Disrepair.

There is, at the present time, a national shortage of Inspectors and one post in every ten throughout the country is vacant. The position appears to be such that unless there is more incentive to persons to qualify as Sanitary Inspectors, there will be a steady decline in recruitment and attention is directed in this respect to the findings of the Working Party on the Recruitment, Training and Qualification of Sanitary Inspectors, published by H M Stationery Office in 1953.

In the meantime, the only Authorities without vacancies are likely to be those which offer "the little bit of something that the others haven't got" -- which may be either a higher salary or more congenial conditions, e.g. pleasant countryside, seaside or a car allowance.

INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Complaints and Routine Visits in Connection with Nuisances

The following is a summary of the complaints entered in the Complaint Book during the year:-

Complaints re accumulations etc.	16
Complaints re food	12
Drains cleared by Public Health Department	245
Drains cleared by Owners	17
Matters requiring execution of works	270
Complaints re dustbins	82
Overcrowding	6
Bugs	21
Woodworm	15
Wasps	17
Fleas	1
Other insects	7
Miscellaneous	44
No nuisance found	51

TOTAL 804

DUSTBINS

The policy of the Council in the event of no dustbin being provided by either the owner or occupier, is to provide a bin and recover a sum of 5s. 0d. with the rates on the 1st April. One hundred and twelve bins were provided during the year.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

An increase in the number of requests for disinfestation in respect of insects of little or no pathogenic significance, e.g. wasps, woodworm, ants, etc., has been noted during recent years. It was decided therefore, during the course of the year, to introduce a charge of five shillings in respect of each such treatment carried out. During the course of the year, 21 premises were treated for bugs, 15 for woodworm, 17 for wasps, 1 for fleas and 7 for other miscellaneous insects. A liquid spray containing D. D. T. and pyrethrum is used for normal disinfestation. Wasps nests are treated with Magnesium Cyanide.

TABLE OF NUISANCES REMEDIED AND REPAIRS EFFECTED

Accumulations of refuse removed	.. .. .	5
Accumulations of manure removed	.. .. .	2
Animals -- Nuisances abated	.. .. .	8
Brickwork (a) repaired	.. .. .	27
(b) repointed or rendered	.. .. .	19
Ceilings (a) cleansed	.. .. .	2
(b) repaired	.. .. .	49
Cesspools (a) emptied	.. .. .	4
(b) repaired	.. .. .	0
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	.. .. .	4
Coppers repaired or renewed	.. .. .	7
Doors -- frames or fittings repaired or renewed	.. .. .	16
Drains (a) cleared by service of notice	.. .. .	17
(b) cleared by Department	.. .. .	245
(c) reconstructed	.. .. .	7
(d) repaired	.. .. .	10
(e) gully fenders repaired	.. .. .	12
(f) inspection chambers provided	.. .. .	6
(g) inspection chambers repaired	.. .. .	12
(h) vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired	.. .. .	13
Fireplaces (a) grates provided	.. .. .	6
(b) other repairs	.. .. .	18
Floors (a) floorboards repaired	.. .. .	27
(b) floor joists repaired	.. .. .	3
(c) sub-floor ventilation improved	.. .. .	1
(d) solid floors repaired	.. .. .	3
Roofs (a) repaired	.. .. .	86
(b) stripped and re-roofed	.. .. .	0
(c) eaves gutters repaired	.. .. .	45
(d) down pipes repaired	.. .. .	8
Sinks (a) sinks renewed	.. .. .	1
(b) sink waste pipes renewed	.. .. .	14
Stairs (a) new treads or risers	.. .. .	3
(b) handrails provided	.. .. .	0
Walls (a) cleansed and re-decorated	.. .. .	3
(b) plaster repaired	.. .. .	76
Water Supply (a) taps, pipes, etc. repaired	.. .. .	42
(b) water storage tanks repaired or renewed	.. .. .	12
Windows (a) frames sashes or casements repaired	.. .. .	28
(b) glazing	.. .. .	29
(c) sashcords etc. repaired	.. .. .	69
W.C.'s (a) flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	.. .. .	52
(b) W.C. pans renewed	.. .. .	16
(c) W.C. seats repaired or renewed	.. .. .	12
Yard Paving (a) repaired	.. .. .	3
(b) re-drained	.. .. .	2
Miscellaneous defects not included above	.. .. .	86

DRAINAGE WORK

Number of drains tested by water - new buildings and extensions	734
Number of drains tested by water - old drainage re-laid	60
Other tests	70
	<hr/> 864

In all, 1,306 visits were made to drainage works for the purpose of drain testing or supervision.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and investigations by Sanitary Inspectors	272
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	33
Premises disinfected (all other infections)	1
Library books disinfected	32

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Sixty-one thirty minute observations of factory chimneys were made during the year and of this number, the model bye-law limit of two minutes black smoke in any continuous period of thirty minutes was exceeded on 7 occasions. This shows an improvement upon the preceding year, when the number of such contraventions was 12.

No proceedings were instituted in respect of any of these contraventions of the bye-laws. The improvement in the atmosphere which must result from a reduction in atmospheric pollution from industrial sources does not, unfortunately, appear to have had a parallel reduction in pollution from domestic sources. In this connection, it is noted with regret, that whilst Local Authority houses are erected with apparatus designed to burn solid smokeless fuels, no instructions or advice are given to new tenants of these houses regarding the use of such fuels.

Observations of atmospheric pollution by use of standard deposit gauges and lead peroxide gauges are made by the Council at three sites in the Borough. The results of analyses of deposits are tabulated below. The Council carries out its observations as a member of the Thameside Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution, and as atmospheric pollutants are no respectors of local authority boundaries, those interested in atmospheric pollution in this area are recommended to obtain a copy of the annual report of that body from the Hon. Secretary, Council Offices, Dartford.

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSIT GAUGES

DARTFORD CENTRAL SITE

MONTHLY DEPOSIT IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total water-insoluble	17.79	16.18	16.46	15.11	20.69	11.98
Soluble in C.S. 2	0.27	0.41	0.20	0.11	0.23	0.04
Ash	14.15	12.38	13.03	12.45	15.70	9.40
Other combustible	3.37	3.39	3.23	2.55	4.76	2.54
Total water-soluble	14.58	16.32	14.17	9.78	14.63	20.88
Calcium	2.22	3.28	3.28	2.15	2.72	2.92
Chlorine	1.86	1.54	1.16	0.83	1.11	.61
Sulphates	5.09	6.01	5.87	4.71	5.02	3.15
Total solids	32.37	32.50	30.63	24.89	35.32	32.86
Rainfall - inches	1.17	1.73	1.3	0.06	1.61	2.70
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total water-insoluble	6.10	7.48	6.21	5.08	9.03	6.01
Soluble in C.S. 2	0.12	0.11	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.12
Ash	3.37	5.25	4.52	3.81	6.35	4.51
Other combustible	2.61	2.15	1.54	1.14	2.59	1.39
Total water-soluble	4.71	7.69	7.52	4.51	14.58	7.95
Calcium	0.46	1.19	1.16	0.66	1.66	0.46
Chlorine	0.40	0.50	0.68	0.48	2.05	1.64
Sulphates	1.53	1.91	2.13	1.71	4.44	2.45
Total solids	10.80	15.47	13.74	9.58	23.61	13.97
Rainfall - inches	1.99	2.83	1.42	1.29	3.51	1.10

BOW ARROW HOSPITAL SITE

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total water-insoluble	14.98	14.81	15.67	16.79	24.28	10.36
Soluble in C.S. 2	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.08	0.19	0.11
Ash	12.54	11.68	12.82	15.04	19.98	7.72
Other combustible	2.32	3.01	2.71	1.67	4.11	2.54
Total water-soluble	12.67	16.11	14.87	11.53	15.94	10.34
Calcium	3.12	3.39	3.15	2.58	3.22	2.15
Chlorine	1.63	1.41	1.17	1.04	1.24	0.84
Sulphates	4.28	5.65	3.82	4.49	5.30	3.47
Total solids	27.65	30.92	30.53	28.32	40.23	20.70
Rainfall - inches	1.03	1.67	1.17	0.13	1.29	2.54

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total water-insoluble	4.89	7.64	6.09	5.44	8.96	10.30
Soluble in C.S. 2	0.07	0.10	0.12	0.10	0.03	0.12
Ash	4.30	5.33	4.61	4.44	6.66	8.59
Other combustible	0.52	2.22	1.36	0.90	2.27	1.59
Total water-soluble	4.36	8.12	7.38	4.20	12.92	7.72
Calcium	0.47	1.14	1.01	0.57	1.54	1.31
Chlorine	0.44	0.60	0.76	0.55	2.11	1.54
Sulphates	1.52	2.27	2.32	1.32	4.70	2.21
Total solids	9.25	15.77	13.47	9.63	21.88	18.02
Rainfall - inches	2.10	2.66	1.23	1.42	3.37	1.14

LEAD PEROXIDE CANDLES

DARTFORD CENTRAL

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mg of Sulphur trioxide collected by 100 sq cm of Batch A Lead Peroxide	2.85	1.87	1.62	1.77	1.51	0.77	0.58	0.67	0.54	0.82	1.31	1.74

JOYCE GREEN HOSPITAL

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mg of Sulphur trioxide collected by 100 sq cm of Batch A Lead Peroxide	2.64	1.98	2.15	1.67	1.19	0.73	1.14	0.73	0.83	1.23	2.36	2.32

The inclusion of wind direction details for each month would only serve to emphasize as in previous years, that the monthly figures set out in the above tables are more an indication of wind direction velocity and other meteorological factors than of pollutants emitted. This cannot be too strongly emphasized as repeatedly monthly figures, usually the higher ones, are quoted by individuals and bodies as evidence of fluctuations in chimney emissions. It is the policy of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in reporting upon atmospheric pollution to give average figures for the six winter months October to March and for the six summer months April to September. In accordance with this policy the following figures are those available in respect of gauges in the Dartford Borough Council's area.

SUMMARY OF DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS - BOW ARROW HOSPITAL

Rain	P.H. Value	Calcium	Chloride	Sulphates	Total Dissolved	Soluble in C.S. 2	Other Combustible matter	Ash insoluble matter	Total Deposit	Period
69.6	7.1	132	55	204	575	5	144	362	512	Oct. 1950 - Mar. 1951 (excl. Jan.)
54.4	7.2	92	29	150	436	4	104	348	894	Apr. 1951 - Sept. 1951
41	6.9	100	37	236	534	4	113	361	478	Oct. 1951 - Mar. 1952
35	7.4	111	26	163	462	5	116	414	535	Apr. 1952 - Sept. 1952
43	6.9	136	47	278	635	5	89	392	486	Oct. 1952 - Mar. 1953 (excl. Feb.)
51	6.6	74	28	116	393	5	79	303	387	June 1953 - Sept. 1953
35	6.7	142	53	239	643	4	116	558	528	Oct. 1953 - Mar. 1954
42	6.8	69	32	127	377	4	81	372	458	Apr. 1954 - Sept. 1954
44	7.3	93	55	187	499	4	81	430	515	Oct. 1954 - Mar. 1955

SUMMARY OF DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS - CENTRAL

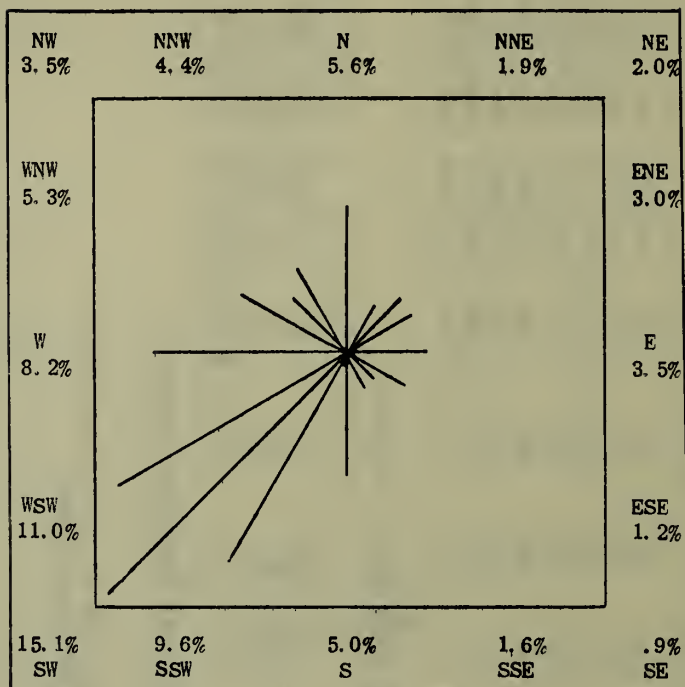
50	6.0	91	34	134	490	4	76	326	406	June 1953 - Sept. 1953
37	6.7	120	49	244	597	8	124	471	602	Oct. 1953 - Mar. 1954
45	6.8	69	27	117	426	5	106	331	441	Apr. 1954 - Sept. 1954
47	6.7	96	63	212	553	6	104	424	534	Oct. 1954 - Mar. 1955

SULPHUR MEASUREMENTS BY THE LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

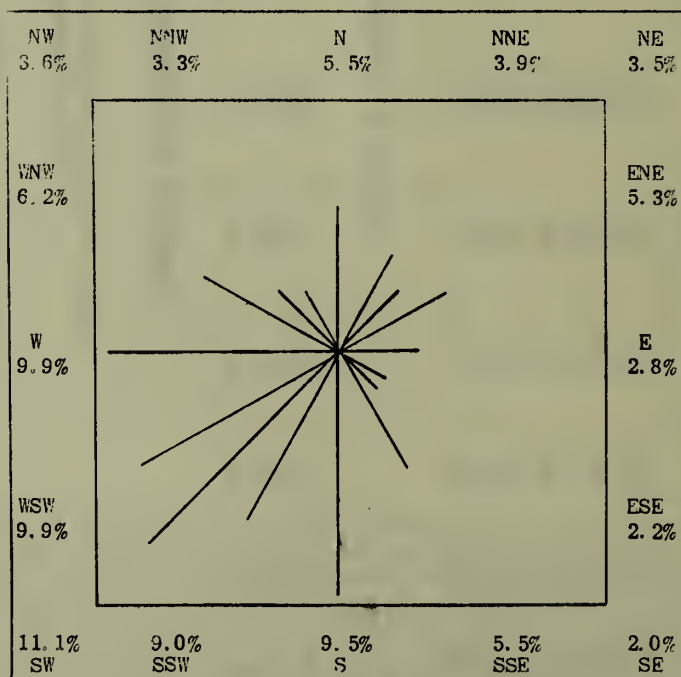
Rate of absorption of Sulphur Dioxide by a 100 sq. cm. of Lead Peroxide
Surface Expressed as mg. SO3/100 sq. cm/day

Site of Gauge	Oct 53/Mar. 54	April/Sept. 54	Oct 54/March 55
Central	1.74	0.97	1.79
Joyce Green Hospital	1.88	1.05	2.26

**SUMMARY OF WIND DIRECTIONS FOR MONTHS OF
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, 1954**



**SUMMARY OF WIND DIRECTIONS FOR MONTHS OF
OCTOBER, 1954 -- MARCH, 1955**



MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There has been no change in the position in the Council's area with regard to the situation or number of moveable dwellings.

A site at Stonehill Woods, Joydens Wood, is licensed for twenty-four chalet type bungalows and Town Planning approval has been given for the siting of ten trailer type caravans upon this site. Ten such caravans have been granted individual licences and are being used for residential purposes.

A number of caravans initially situated on this site have moved away from this district during the year, largely owing to the original occupants having found permanent housing accommodation. The sites have been re-occupied after a short interval.

One horse-drawn caravan has been granted an individual licence to stand on land at "Bignores Farm", Darenth Road, and Town Planning approval has been granted for a limited period.

A licence has been granted for one trailer type caravan to stand on land at Upper Ruxley Farm and Town Planning permission has been granted for a limited period.

OVERCROWDING

There have been six complaints only of overcrowding during the year. In none of these cases was the premises found to be statutorily overcrowded.

SWIMMING BATHS

The open air swimming bath in Burnham Road, which is under the administrative control of the Borough Surveyor, has a continuous heating and chlorination plant; the water being chlorinated so as to give a residual chlorine figure of 0.5 ppm. at the inlet.

Samples of the water submitted for examination during the Summer were found to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The swimming bath at the Dartford College of Physical Education is open during the Summer months for certain school children and samples of the water are also submitted for bacteriological examination.

All samples taken were found to be of satisfactory quality.

HOUSING ACT

Routine house to house inspection was resumed during the year and 126 houses were inspected and recorded in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Consolidated Regulations.

Compulsory Purchase Orders were made during the year in respect of four Clearance Areas containing a total of sixty seven houses and a start had been made on the vacation of the premises by the end of the year.

The following table is a copy of a return forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts for the year ended 31st December, 1954:-

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Return for the Year Ended 31st December, 1954

PART A. - CLEARANCE AREAS (HOUSING ACT, 1936)			
	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit houses	Other houses	
	(1) Land coloured "pink"	None	-	None
(2) Land coloured "grey"	-	None	None
PART B. - HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
	Number of		
	Houses	Persons displaced	
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS			
(1) Housing Act, 1936			
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	None	None	
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	5	14 adults 5 children	
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12).. .. .	None	None	
(2) Housing Act, 1949			
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	None	None	
(b) Demolition orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	None	None	
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953			
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	2	4 adults 1 child	
			Number of Houses
REPAIRS			
INFORMAL ACTION			
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ..			290
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS			
(5) Public Health Acts			
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices			
(a) by owners			37
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..			None
(6) Housing Act, 1936			
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)			
(a) by owners			None
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..			None

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Five applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year and Certificates were issued in all cases. By the end of the year there had been no application for the revocation of any of these Certificates.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

As a result of the amendment of the Housing Act, 1949, by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, greater interest was shown in the provisions dealing with Improvement Grants and fourteen applications for Improvement Grants were received and eight issued.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratory examinations were carried out at the Public Health and County Analyst's Laboratories at Maidstone and also at the Pathological Laboratories of the Dartford Group of Hospitals. The following specimens were submitted for examination:-

Public Health and County Analyst's Laboratories

Water (Bacteriological)	..	..	..	..	..	31
Water (Chemical)	..	..	..	..	..	6
Milk (Bacteriological)	..	..	..	..	..	20
Food and Drug Samples	..	..	..	..	..	133
Ice Cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	22

Laboratory of Dartford Group of Hospitals

Food for infection	..	..	..	..	..	14
Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	24

ICE CREAM

Premises used for the sale of Ice cream

Number of Dealers registered	..	..	..	..	81
Number of Manufacturers registered	..	..	..	..	10
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	..	..	..	..	11

Although ten manufacturers still figure in the Council's register, manufacture has taken place at only one of these premises during the last year. The "hot mix" method is used predominantly at these premises and the "cold mix" method is used at one restaurant and one industrial canteen.

With the exception of one sample of ice cream manufactured by the "cold mix" method which was of Grade I quality, the other samples of ice cream manufactured within the district were from one manufacturer.

Results of examinations are set out below:-

	Manufactured in District	Manufactured out- side District
Grade I	5	2
Grade II	—	—
Grade III	3	—
Grade IV	1	—

Eleven samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. The two manufactured outside the district had average fat and total solids contents of 11.1% and 38.1% respectively. A sample of "cold mix" ice cream manufactured within the district had figures of 9.4% and 30.9% and samples of "hot mix" ice cream manufactured within the district had 5.7% fat and 24.6% total solids.

MILK - LICENCES ETC.

The following are details in connection with licences issued and premises in use in the area:-

Number of Dairies (excluding dairy farms)	2
Number of registered distributors with premises in the Borough (including 20 distributors selling sterilized milk only)	22
Number of registered distributors with premises outside the Borough (including 2 selling sterilized milk only) ..	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealer's Licences issued	10
Tuberculin Tested Milk Supplementary Licences issued ..	12
Accredited Milk Supplementary Licences issued	1
Pasteurised Milk Dealers' Licences issued	10
Pasteurised Milk Supplementary Licences issued	12
Sterilized Milk Dealers' Licences issued	28
Sterilized Milk Supplementary Licences issued	11

SAMPLES

During the year nine samples of Pasteurised milk, 2 samples of Sterilized milk, 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested milk (Pasteurised) and 8 samples of Channel Island Milk (Pasteurised) were submitted to either the County Pathologist or the County Analyst for routine examination.

All samples taken satisfied the prescribed tests.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough, but the following figures are given in respect of inspections of animals at a large hospital within the Council's area:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	-	12	23	-	252
Number inspected	-	12	23	-	252
All diseases, except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcase condemned	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	1	None	None	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	None	8.3%	None	None	2.3%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcase condemned	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	None	None	None	None	0.39%

The number of pigs killed during the year showed a considerable increase compared with the number killed during the preceding year, due to the slaughterhouse becoming a Dead Weight Certification Centre and killing pigs for other adjoining Hospitals.

OTHER INSPECTIONS

Apart from the figures included in other sections of the report, the following visits were made during the year:-

Visits regarding Foodborne infection 25

Visits to:-

Fruit Pickers Huts	1
Offensive Trades	5
Public Conveniences at Inns	109
Other Public Conveniences	99
Slipper Baths	20
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	108
Tents, Vans and Sheds	66
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress	1,644
Miscellaneous visits	583

In all, a total of 10,024 visits or inspections were made during the year.

PUBLIC BATHS

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND SLIPPER BATHS

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following, which are under the administrative control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector:-

Public Conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent.

Public Conveniences for both sexes in Market Street.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1953:-

	1953	1954
Men	13,029	13,252
Boys	615	540
Women	4,317	3,926
Girls	283	233
TOTAL	18,244	17,951

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, ETC.

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

The following table shows the number of food premises of various types in the Council's area and the number of visits of inspection or re-inspection paid to such premises during the year. All premises in which food is prepared or stored for sale for human consumption are inspected at least twice in every year. Some are inspected as a routine measure three times a year and some quarterly. The frequency of inspection varies according to the type of business carried on and the manner in which the particular business is conducted.

Where more than one trade or business is carried on in a particular shop, e.g. grocers who also sell ice-cream, or grocers who also sell a small amount of greengrocery, the premises are classified according to the predominant trade and one inspection entry only is made in connection with visits to such multi-purpose shops.

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	8	68
Butchers	27	191
Cafes and Restaurants	64	355

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
*Dairies	2	4
Fish Friers	13	70
Fish Mongers (not friers)	4	20
Greengrocers	35	141
Grocers	82	325
Ice Cream Premises (including manufacturers)	91	109
Licensed Premises (non-catering)	37	106
Other Food Premises	2	22
Knackers Yards	1	17
Slaughterhouses	1	49

** Although two premises are registered as dairies, one only is used as such and this only on rare occasions*

REGISTERED PREMISES

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the following premises have been registered:-

Sausage Making and Cooked Meats	33
Curing and Preservation of Fish	6
Ice Cream Manufacture	10
Ice Cream Dealers	81

Visits to these premises are included in the figures tabulated above.

As a result of the foregoing inspections, 123 Notices were served during the year and 132 Notices were complied with. The following table sets out the defects which were found:-

Sanitary conveniences in Food Preparation Premises	5
Defective condition of walls and ceilings	7
Dirty condition of walls and ceilings	34
Defective condition of floors	8
Dirty condition of floors	17
Dirty condition of windows	3
Dirty equipment, personnel or clothing	9
Inadequate hot water supply	24
Inadequate supply of soap or towels	9
Inadequate protection of food from sources of contamination	27
Animals likely to contaminate food in preparation rooms	1
Inadequate marking of vehicles used for sale of food	10
Miscellaneous defects	63

It is pleasing to report that most of the items in the above table show a reduction compared with previous years. As the various types of food premises are inspected at regular intervals, this can be taken as an indication of improved conditions rather than being due to a reduction in the number of visits.

The supply of food hygiene posters to various classes of catering establishments has been continued during the year and although this has now been in operation for some time, it was gratifying to be asked by one organisation for the supply of twenty additional posters of one particular type during the year, the management feeling that this poster had a particular message for its employees.

During the year, a number of requests have been received from various organisations in the Town for an address to be given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in connection with Food Hygiene, Clean Food Campaigns etc.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

During the year 133 samples were obtained (7 formal and 126 informal). The following table shows the results of the analyses of these samples:-

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated
Almonds - ground	1		1		
Apricots - dried	4	4		4	4
Arrowroot		1	1		
Butter		5	5		
Camphorated Oil		1	1		
Cinnamon		1	1		
Cocoa		1	1		
Coconut - desiccated		1	1		
Coffee		1	1		
Confectionery:					
Buttercream Toffee		1	1		
Butterscotch		3		3	
Milk Caramels		1		1	
Cornflour		1	1		
Cream		1	1		
Cream of Tartar		1	1		
Curry Powder		1		1	
Custard Powder		2	2		
Dripping		2	1	1	
Fish Cakes		1	1		
Fish Paste - Bloater		1	1		
Flour - Self Raising		1	1		
Gelatine Dessert		1		1	
Ginger - ground		1	1		
Grapefruit - tinned		1		1	
Ham Cheese Spread		1		1	
Ice Cream		11	8	3	
Jam, Apple & Raspberry		1	1		
Jam, Strawberry		1	1		
Lard		1	1		
Lemonade Powder		1	1		
Margarine		1	1		
Margarine (10% Butter)		2	2		
Marmalade		3	3		
Milk		4	4		
Milk - Dried Full Cream		3	3		
Milk - Dried Skimmed		2	2		
Milk - Channel Island (Pasteurised)	1	7	7		1
Milk - Pasteurised		9	9		
Milk - Sterilized		2	2		
Milk - Tuberculin Tested		1	1		
Mineral Waters - Orange Crush		1	1		
Nutmeg - ground		1	1		
Oats - Porridge		1			1
Olive Oil		1	1		
Oranges		5	2		3
Orange Drink		1	1		
Peel - mixed		1	1		
Pepper		4	4		
Salad Cream		1	1		
Sauce - Tomato		1	1		
Sausage - Beef		2	1	1	
Sausage - Pork	1	11	4	8	
Sausage Rolls		4	3	1	
Sausage Vienna (tinned)		1	1		
Soup - Cream of Chicken		1	1		
Soup - Cream of Mushroom		1		1	
Soup - Cream of Tomato		2	1	1	
Soup - Tomato		1	1		
Sugar, Demerara		1	1		
Vinegar, Malt		1	1		
TOTALS	7	126	96	28	9

The following are details in connection with the samples in the foregoing table

which were reported as either "inferior" or "adulterated" :-

- Apricots:** The apricots in question were purchased from various retailers but were all of Persian origin and contained a variable but high proportion of foreign matter, including insects, their larvae and insect fragments, a typical example being one containing 108 rodent hairs, 45 mites and 20 maggots per lb.
- Upon being acquainted with the results of analysis, the retailers discontinued the sale of apricots from this particular source.
- Butter Scotch:** Two of the samples contained between 3 and 4 percent butter and it was not possible to obtain formal follow-up samples. In the third instance the amount of butter fat present was 1.1 percent. The manufacturers stated that the sample was probably from old stock as the butter fat content had been increased to 4.5 percent.
- Curry Powder:** The powder contained 15 ppm. lead. The manufacturers forwarded copies of results of analyses of their product submitted at frequent intervals and all showing less than 10 ppm. They were unable to account for the proportion of lead in the sample taken.
- Dripping:** The dripping was reported to be rancid and arrangements were made with the retailer for a more rapid turnover of his stocks.
- Dessert Gelatine:** The package was not labelled in accordance with the Edible Gelatine Order. As the package was supplied as a "catering pack" the Order did not apply and the matter was not pursued.
- Tinned Grapefruit:** The tinned grapefruit was submitted for examination, the purchaser having complained that it contained small white particles. These were identified by the County Analyst as naringine, the bitter principle of grapefruit and no further action was taken.
- Ham Cheese spread:** This was found to be made from partly skimmed milk and the question of its composition was taken up with the manufacturers by the Public Analyst.
- Ice Cream:** Of the three inferior samples, one was slightly low in milk solids, namely 7.1 percent and two were slightly deficient in fat 4.5 percent. Subsequent samples in each case proved to be satisfactory.
- Channel Island Pasteurised Milk:** The sample of Channel Island Pasteurised Milk contained 6.3 percent fat. A subsequent formal sample was satisfactory and the dairy was unable to account for the deficiency.
- Milk Caramels:** The fat content of the milk caramels concerned was 12.9%. No butter fat was present and the non-fatty milk solids were present to the extent of 3%.
- After considerable correspondence with the manufacturers they stated that they would be prepared to declare the composition of the caramels.
- Sausage:** A sample of beef sausage contained 45 percent meat and seven samples of pork sausage had meat contents of 55 percent, 57 percent, 60 percent (3 samples) and 61 percent (2 samples). One sample of pork sausage contained preservative which was not declared.
- Sausage Rolls:** One sample contained only 10 percent meat. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers, who arranged for the meat content to be increased to not less than 15 percent. Subsequent samples were found to comply with this standard.
- Soup -- Cream of Mushroom and Cream of Tomato:** Were found to be deficient in fat. The question of their composition was taken up with the manufacturer by the Public Analyst.

A complaint was made in connection with the dark and dirty condition of mustard provided at a restaurant. The restaurant was visited and it was found that the mustard was French Mustard, hence the darker appearance.

A complaint was made in connection with tinned meat. A sample of the meat was sent to the County Pathologist for examination and found to be satisfactory.

A complaint was made in respect of sausages which were suspected by the purchaser to have been the cause of an outbreak of diarrhoea in the family. The sausages were examined and found to be satisfactory. Faeces specimens were taken from the household and no organisms were found.

A complaint was made in connection with a "tape worm" found in a bottle of milk. Upon close examination the "tape worm" turned out to be a drinking straw.

A complaint was made in connection with the wet condition of bacon. Examination showed that excess moisture was present and this was believed to have been caused by over pumping with brine.

A packet of Quaker Oats were found to contain insects which were identified as the Saw Tooth Grain Beetle. An inspection of the retailers premises disclosed an infestation of the dry goods store which was subsequently treated with D.D.T. "smokes"

A complaint was made of maggots alleged to have been found in bacon upon delivery by the retailer. The retailer's premises were visited, an inspection of all bacon made and no maggots found.

A portion of "butter" which had been served in a local restaurant was brought to the Public Health Department, the customer being of the opinion that it was margarine. Examination by the Public Analyst proved it to be butter.

Butter was thought by a medical practitioner to have been the cause of vomiting in a household. The butter was sent for chemical and bacteriological examination and no abnormality was found.

Metal in Piece of Bread - a portion of bread containing a small piece of galvanised metal was the subject of a complaint by the purchaser. An investigation at the bakery by the Sanitary Inspector of the Local Authority concerned failed to reveal the origin of the portion of metal. No further action was taken.

UN SOUND FOOD

The total quantity of unsound food dealt with during the year was 1 ton, 8 cwts. 0 qrs. 13 lbs 6 ozs. Details of the foods surrendered are tabulated below:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs	Lbs.	Ozs.
FISH					
Skate				98	
Dogfish				42	
Dabs				42	
MEAT, POULTRY ETC.					
Beef, English				173	
Beef, Imported				436	
Poultry, Chickens				12	4
Sausages, Beef				86	
Sausages, Pork				12	
Pork, Roast				29	
Liver, Lambs				32	
Pigs Head and Pluck				20	
MISCELLANEOUS GROCERIES					
Butter				69	8
Cheese				74	4
Margarine				56	
Bacon				19	12
Pork Luncheon Meat				9	4
Frozen Eggs - 16 tins				224	
Ham				27	
Carried forward	13	0	6	0	

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
<i>Brought forward</i>	--	13	0	6	0
MISCELLANEOUS GROCERIES <i>(Continued)</i>					
Prunes	--	--	--	30	--
Mint Sauce ~ 1 jar	--	--	--	--	6
TINNED GOODS					
Fish 68 tins, Fruit 494 tins, Jam 9 tins, Meat 133 tins, Milk 150 tins, Soup 1 tin, Vegetables 151 tins ..	--	14	3	5	--
	1	8	0	13	6

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a summary of inspections carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act:-

(1) INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	40	4	None
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	136	393	51	None
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	17	44	6	None
TOTAL	168	477	61	None

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found		Referred		Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	11	12	None	None	None
Overcrowding (S2)	None	None	None	None	None
Unreasonable temperature (S3) ..	None	None	None	None	None
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	None	None	None	None	None
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	None	None	None	None	None
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	5	4	None	None	None
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	52	56	None	None	None
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	None	None	None	None	None
TOTAL	81	87	None	None	None

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Staff shortages again resulted in only a very small amount of time being devoted to survey of domestic premises during the year

Details of the number of complaints received compared with those in previous years are set out below:-

	1952	1953	1954
Number of complaints received and dealt with	71	195	210
Number of premises treated	224	213	249
Notices served	1	5	7
Notices complied with	1	5	7

Many of the complaints related to infestations by mice.

Once again no treatment of the sewers was carried out and very few surface infestations were found in which there appeared to be any connection with the presence of rats in the sewers.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Set out below are details of the number of inspections made and notices served and complied with during the year:-

Number of inspections made	250
Notices served	20
Notices complied with	27

Analysis of Notices complied with in 1954:-

Abstracts and Notices	11
Sanitary accommodation defective	0
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	2
Inadequate temperature	11
Half-day or Sunday closing offences	4
Offences relating to intervals for meals, etc.	0
Inadequate washing facilities	1

It will be noted that 11 notices requiring the provision of additional heating facilities were complied with during the year.

Shops Act inspections during the Winter months are directed particularly to the question of the maintenance of an adequate temperature and it is noteworthy that not only are heating facilities often quite inadequate to cope with the coldest weather of the Winter, but in some cases, where facilities are provided, particularly in some of the multiple shops, there is a directive from the management that the shop door should be left open in order to attract custom. Difficulties also arise in the administration of this particular requirement of the Shops Act in so far as open-fronted shops, e.g. some greengrocers are concerned.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

T. H. IDDISON

Chief Sanitary Inspector

